

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 HUD-02 /099 W

----- 065138

R 170520Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3192

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2572

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, EAID, KU, SY

SUBJ: \$200 MILLION KUWAITI LOAN TO SYRIA

1. LOCAL PAPERS JUNE 15 HIGHLIGHTED REPORTS DATES LINES DAMASCUS THAT KUWAIT WILL PROVIDE \$200 MILLION TO SYRIA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A NUMBER OF DEVELOPEMENT AND HOUSING PROJECTS. ACCORDING NEWSPAPER REPORTS FINANCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN DAMASCUS JUNE 14. LOANS WILL BE ADMINISTERED ON KUWAITI SIDE BY KUWAIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT CONSORTIUM (KREIC), PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANY.

2. COMMENT: SINCE LAST FALL EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPORTING PERIODICALLY ON PLANS BY GOK TO MAKE MAJOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA THROUGH KREIC. WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENT IN DAMASCUS, WHICH FOLLOWS SIMILAR ACTION IN CAIRO EARLIER THIS YEAR, GOK HAS COMMITTED SOME \$400 MILLION ALREADY. IN EGYPT ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE IN SUCH A WAY THAT OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WILL RESULT IN KUWAITIS ASSISTING EGYPTIAN PUBLIC HOUSING
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PROGRAMS AND GETTING CHOICE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE IN EXCHANGE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SYRIA INCLUDING BOTH LOW INCOME HOUSING AND PROPERTY EARMARKED FOR COMMERICAL DEVELOPMENT. THUS KUWAITI ACTION IS INTERESTING COMBINATION OF AID AND INVESTMENT.

3. KUWAITIS ANTICIPATE INVESTING ADDITIONAL SUMS THROUGH KREIC IN EGYPT AND SYRIA AND IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES ALSO. FROM TIME-TO-TIME EMBOFF HAS RAISED QUESTION OF KREIC ACTIVITY IN JORDAN, BUT SO FAR COMPANY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OCCUPIED WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS. THOSE INTERESTED IN SEEING KUWAITI FUNDS ATTRACTED TO JORDAN MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIALS THAT THEY TAKE INITIATIVE IN AT LEAST DEVELOPING CONTRACTS WITH KREIC.
MAU

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